17

## We claim:

1. An improved process for imprinting plastic identification tags with durable indicia comprising the steps of:

selecting a plastic tag blank;

printing indicia on said plastic tag blank;

overlying said indicia, once said indicia is printed on a printing service of said tag blank, with a thin, plastic film to form a juxtaposed pairing of said plastic tag blank and said plastic film; and applying heat to said juxtaposed pairing sufficient to

weld said indicia to said plastic tag blank.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said printing is effected through use of a computer-driven printer.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said printing is effected through use of a computer-driven ink jet printer
- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said applying heat is effected by pressing a heated platen against said the juxtaposed pairing.

	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
•	7	
	. 8	
	17	
	18	
	19	
	20	
	21	
	22	

23

5.	The	method	01	f claim	1	whe	rei	n said	plas	stic	film	is	а
poly	ester	film	of	approxi	mat	tely	19	microns	s in	thic	kness		

- 6. The method of claim 3 wherein said plastic film is a polyester film.
- 7. The method of claim 4 wherein said plastic film is a polyester film.
- 8. The method of claim 4 wherein said platen is heated to a temperature of between approximately  $350\,^{\circ}\text{F}$  and  $400\,^{\circ}\text{F}$ .